higher than the cost of smaller size conventional pulverized coal fired plant. Approximate cost of 125 MW IGCC demonstration plant is about Rs. 8 crore per megawatt in comparison to around Rs.4.5 crore per megawatt for the pulverized coal fired plant.

As IGCC technology for Indian coals is yet to be developed for commercial level size plants comparative figures for efficiency will be known only after results are available from a suitably sized demonstration project. However, BHEL studies indicate that corresponding to an efficiency of about 37% on high heating value (HHV) of a pulverized coal power plant of comparable 125 MW capacity, the efficiency of 125 MW IGCC plant is expected to be more than 38% which may even go above 40% during commercial operational use.

Raising the retirement age of IIT teachers

†*37. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IITs have raised the retirement age of teachers by three years, in order to maintain the required student-teacher ratio;

(b) if so, the effective date thereof; and

(c) if not, the new measures being adopted to meet the shortage of teachers?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Considering the acute shortage of teaching faculty in the Central Educational Institutions in higher and technical education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, it was decided to increase the age of superannuation of all persons who were holding teaching positions on regular employment, against sanctioned posts in Central Educational Institutions as on 15.03.2007, from 62 years to 65 years.

(c) Does not arise.

Captive mines

*38. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether companies are given license for mining of iron-ore in captive mines;

(b) if so, the details of the companies which are given such licenses;

(c) whether proper assessment to ascertain the quantum of iron-ore deposits in these mines has been done;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government would take comprehensive measures to assess the quantum of deposits in such mines and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) States as owners of minerals grant mining leases for iron ore after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government. Details

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of prior approvals conveyed to State Government in the last 10 years are available on the website of Ministry of Mines i.e. www.mines.nic.in. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 does not distinguish between mining leases for captive and non captive uses.

(c) and (d) As per Rule 9 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, lessees of mining leases are required to submit a mining plan based on the assessment of the mineral resources and commence mining only after approval of the mining plan by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (c) and (d) above.

Supply of equipment to power generation companies

*39. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has issued directions that State- run companies, including Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. should be given preference in placement of bulk orders for power equipment supply by all the power generation companies in the country to protect the interest of Domestic Power Equipment Companies;

(b) if so, the details of mandatory binding orders issued, so far, to all the power generation companies;

(c) whether a monitoring cell would be created in the Ministry to constantly monitor placement orders with PSUs by power generating companies;

(d) if so, the details of the proposed monitoring cell; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not creating such a monitoring cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No directions/orders have been issued that State run companies including Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) should be given preference in placement of bulk orders for power equipment supply by all the power generation companies in the country.

Government have only approved that bulk ordering be done for induction of 660/800 MW supercritical units for some units of NTPC Ltd. and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) with some preference for BHEL in the competitive bid process. However, no bulk orders have been placed so far.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Status of tribal people in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*40. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tribal people in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are extremely poor and are suffering for want of food and clothing;